

Fall 2014

THEA 41191 (001) CRN 18815

MW 2:15-3:30 KCPA D306

Women in Theatre: Mothers, Daughters, Activists, Artists and Storytellers



Instructor	Office Hours (B146)	Email	Office Phone
Dr. Yuko Kurahashi	B146 M/W 1:15-2:15, 3:30-4, Tuesdays 1-2 PM and by appointments	ykurahas@kent.edu	(330)672-9483

Course Description and Outcome: This course offers a platform for students to explore how female playwrights (twentieth century and the twenty-first century primarily in the United States and UK) have dealt with various women's issues in different times and locations. Instead of using a geographically and chronologically defined categorization, we are going to examine specific issues and themes such as mother-daughter relationships; women and war; women and travels; women, activism; plays about and during the suffrage movement; and women and solidarity (& conflicts). In order to compare certain plays with others of the similar issues, we will also read two plays written by male playwrights. We will also study female dance artists and female theatre designers (guest lecturers). Our three main goals are: (1) to learn key female theatre artists in theater and dance; (2) to explore themes and dramaturgy of each play; and (3) to examine cultural and historical references in the text, further informing ourselves of important figures and events and their sociopolitical ramifications. We will also enjoy attending at least one performance (in the Cleveland area) of a play written by a female playwright.

Required Assignments/Exams

I. Participation in class discussion. It is extremely important for you to participate in class discussion. Demonstrate your critical thinking, critical analysis and enthusiasm through active participation in class discussion. Positive and respectful attitude are essential. (10 x class meetings) (10x22 plus 15 plus 12=247)

II. Quizzes (pop quizzes) (127 points)

III. Mini-Project

Option 1

Class-material related presentation (100 points)

- 10 min, clear, concise, but informative presentation.
- At least one of the materials you refer to should be a scholarly work (not from google, or yahoo).
- Visual aid is required (powerpoint, prezi, video)
- You need to explain why your presentation is important.

Option 2

Attend one of regional theatre performances that address issues of women. Prior approval is required. Write a 400-word review. (Due December 6)

Approved Productions: [*The Little Foxes*](#) (Sep.12-Oct.5, Cleveland Playhouse)

[*Woman and Scarecrow*](#), (October 30-Nov. 16, 2014, Mamai Theatre)

IV. Research/Experiential Project (200 points)

Options 1. Traditional

Choose one of female designers/artists/performers/playwrights and investigate her/ uniqueness and effects on other artists and women's issues, and contributions to the theatre/performance arts. Research paper should be (1000-1200 words for UG and 1800-2000 for G). You are welcome to choose the same topic as that of your class-material related presentation.

Option 2. Experiential

Participate in the Seneca Falls Trip (Oct. 16-19). Read the assigned articles. Keep a journal. Based on your journal, you are asked to write an essay, integrating scholarly articles you read (750-1000 words). Bonus: create a 1-2 min video (up to 50points)

V. Exam 1 (Fact-based questions and a short essay) (100 points)

Exam 2 (Fact-based questions and a short essay) (104 points)

VI. Graduate Student Presentation (100 points)

Grading Scale

93.0%	A	73.0%	C
90.0%	A-	70.0%	C-
87.0%	B+	67.0%	D+
83.0%	B	60.0%	D
80.0%	B-	0.0%	F
77.0%	C+		

Other Important Information

Fair Use and Copyright: Make sure to cite the source of the information/ materials you use. In terms of fair use, you are adequately protected to submit and post materials within Blackboard, our educational environment with restricted classroom access. If you publish works to public domains and/or distribute materials outside Blackboard, you are no longer protected by academic fair use.

Students with disabilities: University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Support Programs for all students

<u>Student Success Programs:</u> University Library, 5 th Floor, Rm 510, 1125 Risman Drive, Kent, OH 44242-0001 Phone: (330) 672-9292 Fax: (330) 672-9296 Email: NEWATKSU@kent.edu	<u>Writing Commons</u> writing@kent.edu Library 4th Floor
--	--

Cheating and Plagiarism Policies: It is the policy of the University that students enrolled in the University are to perform their academic work according to standards set by faculty members, departments, schools and colleges of the University. Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which **appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.** This policy applies to all students of the University. University policies concerning student cheating and plagiarism can be found in [the Administrative policy and procedures regarding student cheating and plagiarism.](#)

Registration Requirement: Students who are not officially registered for a course by published University deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her official class schedules (using FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

Course Withdrawals:

- To drop or withdraw from a course, access your flashline.
- Withdrawals are subject to deadlines stated in the University's semester schedule and available at the University Registrar's web site: http://www.kent.edu/registrar/calendars/stu_important_fall.cfm

Course Refunds:

- Please refer to the Bursar's web site: <http://www.kent.edu/bursar/Refunds/Refund-Policy.cfm> for information on the University's refund policy.

Weekly Schedule

Week			Reading and Lecture	Date
1. Introduction	1	Week of August 25	Introduction of Syllabus. Introduction of Instructor. Introducing the course. Who are women in theatre?	Monday D306
			Women and Dance Theatre Guest Joan Meggitt	Wednesday D306
	2	Week of September 1	Labor Day No class	Monday
			The state of contemporary theatre and women Guest Raynette Smith	Wednesday D306
2. Women and War	3	Week of September 8	Alice Dunbar-Nelson <i>Mine Eye Have Seen</i> (USA 1918) Mary Burril, <i>Aftermath</i> (USA 1919)	Monday D306
			Muriel Box, <i>Angels of War</i> (UK 1935) Student presentations on women, war, and theatre.	Wednesday D306
	4	Week of September 15	No-in class Class (Blackboard)	Monday
			Christine Reid, <i>Joyriders</i> (N. Ireland 1988) Student presentations on Northern Ireland in the 1980s, Christine Reid and other contemporary Irish women playwrights.	Wednesday D306
	5	Week of September 22	Lynn Nottage <i>Ruined</i> (USA 2009) Student presentations on DRC and Lynn Nottage and <i>Ruined</i> .	Monday, D306
			Heather Raffo, <i>9 Parts of Desire</i> (USA 2003) Student presentations on Heather Raffo, Women in Iraq and <i>9 Parts of Desires</i> .	Wednesday D306
3. Exam	6	Week of Sept.29	Exam 1	Monday D306
			Female Actors Guest Amy Fritsche	Wednesday D306
4. The Suffrage Movement		Week of October 6	Women, Theatre, The Suffrage Movement Guest Lecturer, Denise Harrison	Monday D306

	7		Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John <i>How the Vote was Won</i> Student presentations on Theatre and the British Suffrage Movement	Wednesday D306
	8	Week of October 13	Selina Solomons, <i>The Girl from Colorado</i> Student Presentations on the Suffrage Movement in the US and Theatre.	Monday D306
			Sandra Fenichel Asher <i>A Woman Called Truth</i> Student Presentations on Sojourner Truth	Wednesday D306
		The Seneca Falls Trip this weekend. Oct. 16-19		
5. Solidarity and Conflicts and Women	9	Week of October 20	Lecture and Film Notzake Shange <i>for Colored Girls....</i> Student presentations on Notzake Shange and <i>for Colored Girls</i>	Monday D306
			Individual Conferences	Wednesday D306
6. Women and Travels	10	Week of October 27	Kaufmann, <i>33 Variations</i>	Monday D306
			Josephina Lopez <i>Hungry Women</i>	Wednesday D306
7. Mother-Daughter Relationship	11	Week of November 3	Mother-Daughter Relationship, literature, and theatre	Monday D306
			Marsha Norman, <i>'Night Mother</i> Student presentations on Marsh Norman and <i>'Night mother.</i>	Wednesday D306
	12	Week of November 10	As a counter text to <i>'Night Mother</i> Martin McDonagh, <i>The Beauty Queen of Leenane</i> Student presentation on <i>The Beauty Queen of Leenane.</i>	Monday D306
			Shelly Silas, <i>Calcutta Kosher</i> (UK 2004)	Wednesday D306
8. Contemporary Activism	13	Week of November 17	Special Guest: Katherine Burke	Monday D306
			Anna Deavere Smith <i>Fires in the Mirror</i> (film) Student presentations on Anna Deavere Smith	Wednesday D306
	14	Week of November 24	Graduate Student Special Presentation Theatre, Activism, and Women	Monday D306
			Thanksgiving!	Wednesday

10 . Review and Exam 2	15	Week of December 1	Review Study for Exam 2. No in class class.	Monday D306
			Exam 2	Wednesday D306
			Research Paper Due Wednesday December 9th.	